

## Message Text

SECRET

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61

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:MDSTERNBERG:SKG

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR

S : DPASSAGE

S/S - O: MTANNER

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O 130224Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 201418

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS EG

SUBJECT: RETURN OF ISRAELI BODIES FROM EGYPT: ATHERTON-

BAR-ON - CONVERSATION, AUGUST 12

REF: CAIRO 9838

1. ON SECRETARY'S INSTRUCTION ATHERTON RAISED WITH ISRAELI

DCM BAR-ON AUGUST 12 THE SUBJECT OF RETURN OF ISRAELI

BODIES FROM EGYPT.

2. ATHERTON RECALLED THAT IN EARLY JUNE HE DISCUSSED THIS

MATTER WITH BAR-ON AND HAD TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD INDICATIONS

THAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE READY TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON

EXCHANGING ISRAELI BODIES FOR ISRAELI-HELD EGYPTIAN

PRISONERS. HE TOLD BAR-ON THAT HE HAD SAID AT THAT TIME

THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO TELL THE EGYPTIANS THAT ISRAEL

WAS PREPARED TO REACH AN AGREEMENT THROUGH THE ICRC IF

ISRAEL SO DESIRED. IN THE MEANTIME, EILTS HAD HAD A DIS-

CUSSION WITH GAMASY WHICH THE SECRETARY THOUGHT WOULD BE A

GOOD IDEA TO PASS ON.

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3. ATHERTON RELATED THAT GAMASY HAD TOLD EILTS THAT EGYPT

IS WILLING TO ARRANGE AN EXCHANGE THROUGH THE ICRC OR JOINT COMMISSION IF ISRAEL WILL PROVIDE A LIST OF THE PRISONERS THEY PROPOSE TO RETURN, AND IF THAT LIST IS

SATISFACTORY. GAMASY HAD ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO PASSING THIS INFORMATION ON TO THE ISRAELIS AND THAT ISRAEL COULD TAKE IT FURTHER THROUGH THE ICRC OR JOINT COMMISSION.

4. ATHERTON ASKED BAR-ON IF HE HAD ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM HIS GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER. BAR-ON REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN ANYTHING.

5. ATHERTON REQUESTED THAT BAR-ON RELAY THIS INFORMATION TO THE GOI. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING TO BAR-ON THAT WHILE WE WOULD LIKE TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, WE WOULD PREFER TO DROP OUR MIDDLEMAN ROLE AND WOULD HOPE THAT ISRAEL AND EGYPT WOULD WORK THIS MATTER OUT THROUGH THE ICRC OR THE JOINT COMMISSION. KISSINGER

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